

Andrew Jackson to Thomas H. Benton, January 17, 1837, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO THOMAS H. BENTON.1

1 Copy.

Washington, January 17, 1837.

My Dear Col, Your interesting note of this morning, by your dear little son, inclosing “*the Pen* used by the Secretary of the senate in *Expunging* from the journal of the senate the odious sentence which a few politicians and their confederates, the Bank of the United States, caused to be entered up against me, and which the voice of millions of freemen has ordered to be expunged,”² was duly received, but business prevented my acknowledging it sooner.

² Resolution of the Senate, Mar. 28, 1834, censuring Jackson's conduct in removal of the deposits, expunged from the journal of the Senate Jan. 16, 1837.

I thank you sincerely for this precious present, for this act of justice of which it was the instrument—my most grateful feelings are due to the senate, and particularly to you for your disinterested and able defence of the Executive from the groundless charge “of violating the Constitution and the Laws” contained in the expunged resolutions. yes I sincerely thank you for this precious *Pen* which has been used in carrying into effect the just sentence of the senate, which has healed the wound, given by the resolution it was employed to expunge; and as this *pen* has been only used in this righteous act, so it shall be preserved with many other precious relics for further use, carefully kept by me during life, and shall by my last *will* and *testament* be bequeathed to you as its rightful heir—not

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only as its rightful heir, but as an evidence of my high regard, and exalted opinion of your talents, virtue and Patriotism.

For these exertions in the cause of innocence and justice I again thank you, and with my blessing on the dear little boy, the bearrer of your present, remain with grateful feelings

your friend